

Remarks/Arguments

Claim status. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 11 to 13 are now in the case. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 5, 10 and 14 to 31 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

The amendments to the claims do not add new matter. The Fc domain amendment to claim 1 incorporates subject matter from claim 5. Claims 5 and 10 are canceled because they are obviated by the amendment to claim 1. The apolipoprotein amendment to claim 1 and the amendment to claim 13 address mere formalities and accommodate suggestions in the Office Action.

Election under restriction requirement. As requested in the Office Action, the Applicant hereby affirms the provisional election of Group I, claims 1-13. The Applicants have canceled the claims of the unelected groups in the interest of compact prosecution.

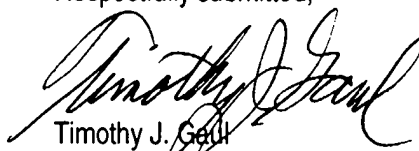
Rejection under Section 112. The Office Action stated that the term "Apo-AI" was indefinite and should be replaced by a fully spelled out term in its first occurrence in the claims. The Applicant interprets the rejection as falling under Section 112, second paragraph, as the Office Action suggests an amendment to the claim with no indication that such amendment would fail to be enabled by the specification nor in any way add new matter. The Applicant thus amended claim 1 as suggested in the Office Action. The Applicant notes that the term "apolipoprotein AI" and its abbreviated form "Apo AI" were well known in the art; see, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,046,166 and 5,876,968 (References AS and AT). Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment to claim 1.

Rejection under Section 102. The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 under Section 102(b) over Nion *et al* and under Section 102(e) or (a) over Dasseaux *et al*. Neither reference anticipates claims 1-13 under Section 102 for the reasons outlined below.

Nion *et al* refers to a prior reference in which the authors prepared a molecule having "a small core matrix of lysine residues bearing radially branched synthetic peptides as dendrimeric arms" (Nion *et al* at page 228). Dasseau *et al* describe polylysine linkers between its peptides, with primary concern for the antiparallel orientation of peptides. As amended, however, the claims of the present application are directed to Fc-linked peptides. Neither Nion *et al*. nor Dasseau *et al*. provide any recognition, however, of the advantages of Fc linkage. In particular, neither Nion *et al*. nor Dasseau *et al*. address the half-life extending property conferred by Fc linkage.

Conclusion. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests entry of all amendments, withdrawal of all objections, rejections, and requirements, and allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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